

Appl. No. 10/045,277
Amdt. dated 09/14/2005
Reply to Office Action of 06/14/2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 - 20 and add new Claims 21 - 28
as shown below.

1 - 20. canceled.

21. (New) A method of allowing a resource to be shared by
a plurality of partitions of a logically partitioned
system, comprising the steps of:

originally assigning the resource to one partition;

indicating in a file all partitions of the system that
may use the resource;

determining whether the resource is presently assigned
to a partition requesting usage of the resource;

consulting the file to determine, upon receiving the
request from the requesting partition, whether the
requesting partition may use the resource if the
resource is not presently assigned to the requesting
partition;

determining, if the requesting partition may use the
resource, whether the resource is presently being used
by another partition;

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automatically reassigning the resource to the requesting partition if the resource is not being used by another partition; and

re-assigning the resource back to the partition to which the resource was originally assigned if the requesting partition is not the partition to which the resource was originally assigned and the requesting partition has terminated using the resource.

22. (New) The method of Claim 21 wherein if the resource is being used by another partition the requesting partition is so notified.

23. (New) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for allowing a resource to be shared by a plurality of partitions of a logically partitioned system, comprising:

code means for originally assigning the resource to one partition;

code means for indicating in a file all partitions of the system that may use the resource;

code means for determining whether the resource is presently assigned to a partition requesting usage of the resource;

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code means for consulting the file to determine, upon receiving the request from the requesting partition, whether the requesting partition may use the resource if the resource is not presently assigned to the requesting partition;

code means for determining, if the requesting partition may use the resource, whether the resource is presently being used by another partition;

code means for automatically reassigning the resource to the requesting partition if the resource is not being used by another partition; and

code means for re-assigning the resource back to the partition to which the resource was originally assigned if the requesting partition is not the partition to which the resource was originally assigned and the requesting partition has terminated using the resource.

24. (New) The computer program product of Claim 23 wherein if the resource is being used by another partition the requesting partition is so notified.
25. (New) An apparatus for allowing a resource to be shared by a plurality of partitions of a logically partitioned system, comprising:

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means for originally assigning the resource to one partition;

means for indicating in a file all partitions of the system that may use the resource;

means for determining whether the resource is presently assigned to a partition requesting usage of the resource;

means for consulting the file to determine, upon receiving the request from the requesting partition, whether the requesting partition may use the resource if the resource is not presently assigned to the requesting partition;

means for determining, if the requesting partition may use the resource, whether the resource is presently being used by another partition;

means for automatically reassigning the resource to the requesting partition if the resource is not being used by another partition; and

means for re-assigning the resource back to the partition to which the resource was originally assigned if the requesting partition is not the partition to which the resource was originally assigned and the requesting partition has terminated using the resource.

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26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein if the resource is being used by another partition the requesting partition is so notified.

27. (New) A system having a plurality of partitions, the system allowing a resource to be shared by the partitions, the system comprising:

at least one storage device for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing the code data to originally assign the resource to one partition, to indicate in a file all partitions of the system that may use the resource, to determine whether the resource is presently assigned to a partition requesting usage of the resource, to consult the file to determine, upon receiving the request from the requesting partition, whether the requesting partition may use the resource if the resource is not presently assigned to the requesting partition, to determine, if the requesting partition may use the resource, whether the resource is presently being used by another partition, to automatically reassign the resource to the requesting partition if the resource is not being used by another partition, and to re-assign the resource back to the partition to which the resource was originally assigned if the requesting partition is not the partition to which the resource was originally

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assigned and the requesting partition has terminated
using the resource.

28. (New) The system of Claim 27 wherein if the resource
is being used by another partition the requesting
partition is so notified.

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